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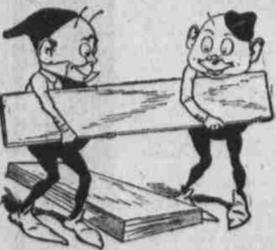
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TAFT IN NEW YORK.

President Elect Addresses Society of North Carolinians.

Urges Dixie Voters to Break Away From Political Traditions—Declares North Years for Closer Association With South—Negro Question.

President Elect Taft was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the North Carolina society in New York Monday night.

Mr. Taft, in the course of an address which was confined entirely to the south and its problems, did not hesitate to follow up what he regards as the advantages of his trip through the south during the recent campaign and urged again that the voters of that section should break away from the outlived sentiment and traditions of their past political affiliations and cast their ballots in accordance rather with their economic and real political beliefs. Mr. Taft declared that nothing would give him greater pride during his coming term in the chief executive office than to so direct the policy of the national government with respect to these southern states as to convince the intelligent citizens of the south of the desire of his administration to aid them in working out satisfactorily the serious problems before them and of bringing them and their northern fellow citizens closer and closer in sympathy and point of view.

Mr. Taft frankly expressed himself regarding the so-called "negro question," and declared that neither he nor the Republican party had any idea of forcing upon the people of the south the dominance of an ignorant class.

Mr. Taft declared that the north years for a closer association with the south, and quoted statistics to show that the industries of the south had grown and prospered more during the past decade than any other section of the country.

EIGHT TEAMS TIED FOR LEAD.

Riders in Six-Day Bicycle Race Far Ahead of Old Records.

New York, Dec. 8.—Furious riding, which resulted in the establishing of new records and two serious accidents, marked the six-day bicycle race at Madison Square Garden. From the start the contest has been a succession of sprints for mile after mile, until the riders are far ahead of the old records. Two teams have dropped out of the contest because of accidents. Menus Redell was caught in a pocket and before he could extricate himself one of the contestants came up from behind and catching his pedal, sent the unfortunate rider sprawling on the track, breaking his right shoulder bone. Two hours later Patrick Logan, during a desperate mix-up, was thrown heavily. He was carried off unconscious, bleeding from the head and mouth, and his case is pronounced serious.

Eight teams are tied for the lead, with four one lap behind and two others far in the rear.

RUEF CASE NEARING AN END.

Defense Rests Without Calling Witnesses to the Stand.

San Francisco, Dec. 8.—Abe Ruef's third trial upon an issue of municipal bribery exposures of 1906—the alleged bribery of a supervisor in the award of the United Railroads trolley franchise—is approaching an end. Some time tomorrow the jury will begin consideration of a verdict. Arguments are now being made and it is practically assured that a verdict or a disagreement will be included in the records of the court before the end of the week. The decision of the attorneys for the defendant to call no witnesses has undoubtedly shortened the proceedings by many days, and while the move was not entirely unexpected, there was much surprise when Henry Ach, Ruef's leading counsel, announced that the defense would rest.

GRAND JURY ON NIGHT RIDERS.

Soldiers Guard 49 Prisoners While Civic Body Passes on Evidence.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 8.—The stage is set for the final drama in the story of night riders in Tennessee. A special grand jury is preparing a fresh set of indictments. Across the street, in a great brick building, guarded by soldiers with fixed bayonets and loaded rifles, are forty-nine of the accused night riders, some of them in their shirtsleeves, others in overalls just as they were taken by the military.

Erkstromer Commits Suicide.

St. Louis, Dec. 8.—Charles A. Erkstromer, Swedish vice consul in St. Louis, who committed suicide at his home here, was short in his accounts as manager of the St. Louis office of the West Disinfectant company, according to a statement made by Emil Taussig, president of the company.

De Oro Wins First Game.

St. Louis, Dec. 8.—In a fast game, Alfredo De Oro of Cuba won the first of three matches that will determine the three cushion billiard championship of the world, defeating Thomas A. Hueston of St. Louis by the score of 50 to 44.

Parsons Man Breaks Jail.

Parsons, Kan., Dec. 8.—Paul Weggen, a policeman held for complicity in the burglary of \$5,000 worth of merchandise from the Stresburg general store here last month, broke jail and escaped.

GOVERNORS MEET AGAIN.

Conservation Conference Calls Them Together at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Not since last May, when the governors of the states met here in response to the invitation of President Roosevelt to discuss the question of the conservation of the nation's resources, has the national capital been the scene of so notable a gathering as that which assembled here today.

The governors of the states are again here, either in person or by proxy, with a great throng of other distinguished men. The purpose of their meeting is a joint "conservation



GIFFORD PINCHOT.

conference" with the national conservation commission in order to get under way the most important part of the work of the conference—the report to the president on the national resources. The report is due Jan. 1.

Today's session began this morning with an informal meeting in the room of the Willard hotel for the purpose of organizing. This afternoon there will be a great general meeting in the Belasco theater, at which President Roosevelt and President Elect Taft will be among the speakers who will address the members of the joint conservation conference, the rivers and harbors congress, the southern commercial congress and other organizations with allied objects whose sessions in Washington help to make up what has been called "conservation week."

After the opening session the joint conference will take up its business in earnest at the Hubbard Memorial hall. The plan is to take up one after another the main subjects which the national conservation commission under Chairman Gifford Pinchot has been studying—waters, lands, forests, minerals.

Distinguished men, including governors, senators, representatives, bankers, business men and others, will address the meetings. J. I. Hill, John Mitchell, Andrew Carnegie and a score of other representative men have accepted invitations to be present.

Since the conference seven months ago, when the president quickened the interest of the entire nation in one of its most perplexing problems, the national conservation commission has made an inventory of the natural resources of the country. This inventory will be presented to Chairman Pinchot, who in his report to the president Jan. 1 will make recommendations which both the work of the commission and the joint conference may suggest as vital in solving the conservation problem.

The inventory is completed now as far as present knowledge can go. The members of the commission declare and the country as a whole is convinced that the state of affairs is one that requires immediate and effective action.

FRAMING NEW TARIFF BILL.

Congress Gives Committee Power to Subpoena Witnesses.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The work of framing a new tariff bill will be actively begun by the house ways and means committee tomorrow. The majority members of the committee will be designated to draft the bill. A resolution offered in the house by Chairman Payne of the house ways and means committee, which was adopted, gives the committee power to subpoena witnesses for the tariff hearings. An executive meeting of the committee probably will be held to select the names of those whom it is desired to have appear before it. President Van Cleave of the National Association of Manufacturers probably will be one of the first called.

Fresh Disturbances in Persia.

Teheran, Dec. 8.—The nationalists at Meshed, a holy city of northeastern Persia, have routed the garrison and seized the government offices. Fresh disturbances are reported at Ramadan, Kermanshah and Talish.

Reprieve Granted Billik.

Acting Governor Sherman of Illinois has granted Herman Billik of Chicago a further reprieve until Jan. 29, 1909. Billik was sentenced to be hanged Dec. 11 for the murder of Mary Vrzal.

Shoots Mother, Thinking Her Burglar.

Detroit, Dec. 8.—Raymond Schmelzer, aged twenty-two, shot his mother, whom he mistook for a burglar. She was seriously wounded, but will recover.

Contract for Chicago's New City Hall.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The contract for building Chicago's new city hall has been awarded to the Noel Construction company of Baltimore, whose bid was \$2,295,000.

NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

Defense Springs a Surprise in Rustin Murder Case.

New Witness Produced Who Testifies She Saw "Woman in the Case" on Morning of the Murder—Trial is Nearing End.

Omaha, Dec. 8.—The defense in the trial of Charles E. Davis spring a sensation when Mrs. Emily Allen testified that she saw Mrs. Abbie Rice the morning of the murder buying a paper at Sixteenth and Farnam streets at 4 a. m. The prosecution has introduced several witnesses to show that Mrs. Rice took a car near the Rustin home at 11:30 the night of the murder and went direct to Clara Gleason's house and remained there until the next day. The testimony created a sensation, and County Attorney English put the witness through a vigorous cross-examination, but was unable to shake her testimony. Mrs. Allen said she had known Dr. Rustin several years, and that she had often seen him with Mrs. Rice, always believing her to be the doctor's wife. She was sure it was Mrs. Rice she met downtown the morning of the shooting.

STATE ASYLUM REPORT.

Superintendent Hay Points Out Needs of Institution.

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—Superintendent Hay of the state insane asylum has made his annual report to the governor, and has some recommendations to make relative to the needs of the institution. He says the coming legislature should appropriate not less than \$50,000 for a men's building, thus segregating the men from the women. He also asks that \$1,000 be appropriated for an open sleeping porch for tuberculosis patients, many cases of which have developed during recent years.

Superintendent Hay believes more attention should be given to dipomanics. About 700 patients have been treated in the institution for the drink and drug habits with much success, and he recommends that the state go so far as to have a separate institution for them.

Douglas county did more business with the institution than any other county in the state. It sent 163 inmates to the asylum, including 111 insane patients and forty-six dipomanics. Lancaster county was a close second, with 145 patients. No other county had more than thirty patients.

DR. YOUNG FILES REPORT.

Superintendent of Norfolk Asylum Gives Statistics of Institution.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 8.—A report just made by Dr. G. A. Young, superintendent of the Norfolk insane asylum, shows that of the \$229,000 appropriated by the last legislature, \$87,000 remains to pay the expenses until next April. The estimated expenditures for the coming two years is \$292,000, of which \$116,000 is for permanent improvements, including \$20,000 to complete a new building now in course of construction. Additional buildings are asked for, including one for men to cost \$45,000.

On Nov. 30 the institution had 262 patients, 43 being at home on parole. During the year 227 were received, and 80 discharged. Forty-seven patients died at the asylum during the year.

Body Not That of Williams.

Valentine, Neb., Dec. 8.—Mrs. Williams has just received a letter from her son, enclosing his photograph, to prove that he is not dead, as reported some time ago. A floating body was found in the Niobrara river and Mrs. Williams went to the spot and identified it as that of her son. Preparations were being made for the funeral when she received the letter from her son, denying emphatically that he was dead.

Preachers Are Champion Bowlers.

York, Neb., Dec. 7.—The preachers of York are the champion bowlers of the city. A team composed of ministers, were easy victors over a picked team from the postoffice, defeating the latter by 200 pins. York is supplied with more ministers than any other city of its size in Nebraska, and possibly in the country.

Banquet to Sheldon Abandoned.

Lincoln, Dec. 8.—The proposed banquet to Governor Sheldon the night of Jan. 5 has been abandoned. Although it is not so stated at the executive office, it is understood the reason for not holding the entertainment is the result of a request from the governor.

Alleged Barn Burners Arrested.

Papillion, Neb., Dec. 8.—James Chandler and Bert Bressman have been arrested charged with burning a barn and its contents at Bellevue. They are held on a charge of arson and will have their trial early in the coming term.

Johnson County Industrial Contest.

Tecumseh, Neb., Dec. 5.—More than half a hundred prizes have just been distributed among the boys and girls of Johnson county by the Johnson County Farmers' institute, which has just closed its first annual industrial contest.

Burns Defeats Austrian Champion.

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 5.—In the wrestling match here last night, "Farmer" Burns of Iowa defeated Charles Delivuk, champion of Austria. Burns won two of the three falls.

SLAGER GETS SIX YEARS.

Mrs. Ruser Pleads Guilty and Is Given One Year.

Papillion, Neb., Dec. 4.—John Slager has been sentenced to six years in the penitentiary for attempting to kill Emil Ruser, near this place, and Mrs. Ruser, who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting Slager, was given one year. The evidence showed that Slager, who had been employed on the Ruser farm, had become enamored of Mrs. Ruser and that the two had conspired to take the life of her husband in order that they might become married. Slager made a futile attempt to shoot Ruser through a window of his bedroom while he was asleep with his wife.

Fine Exhibit for Corn Show.

York, Neb., Dec. 7.—All of the corn exhibits at the recent corn show here have been shipped to Omaha and entered there in the National Corn exposition, which opens this week. One of the best exhibits is that of 540 bushels of corn which was raised from one bushel of selected seed corn. Accompanying the exhibit are affidavits made by responsible men who measured the six acres on which the corn was raised, and weighed the yield. York county will furnish one of the largest Nebraska exhibits at the exposition, and several hundred persons are preparing to visit Omaha to see the comparison it makes with the communities in the United States.

Pierce Submits Insurance Report.

Lincoln, Dec. 4.—John L. Pierce, deputy state auditor, who for six years has been in charge of the insurance department of the state, has just completed his annual report. Mr. Pierce has seen the insurance department expand in Nebraska as it never did before. There has been a clear profit to the state in this department during the past six years of over half a million dollars. Deputy Auditor Pierce believes the insurance department of the state government should be entirely segregated from the auditor's office, and recommends legislation to that end. He reports that 346 insurance companies are doing business in the state at this time.

Many Applications for Clemency.

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—Much of Governor Sheldon's time is being taken up with hearing of applications for clemency by convicts at the state's big reformatory. With the knowledge that the governor's term will soon expire, many restrained men who believe they are entitled to their freedom have had their friends very busy in their behalf for some time, and as the time grows shorter these applications increase. Governor Sheldon has not taken definite action in any of these cases, but announcement is expected from him soon of the names which he has decided are worthy of merit.

Nebraska Lutherans Celebrate.

Omaha, Dec. 4.—Nebraska Lutherans are this week celebrating the establishment of the first Lutheran church in Nebraska fifty years ago by Rev. H. W. Kuhns. Several meetings have been held in the large Lutheran churches, at which many of the old residents who were members of the Lutheran church a decade ago were present. Fourteen persons were enrolled in the first congregation. Rev. Kuhns found only nine Lutherans in the Indian trading village known as Omaha in 1855, and it was not until 1862 that the first church edifice was built.

Supreme Court Vacancy.

Lincoln, Dec. 7.—Interest is still intense on who shall succeed John J. Sullivan, who resigned his place on the supreme bench after serving one day. Applicants are no longer numerous than they were before any appointments were made, and the rivalry is even keener. There has been no intimation from Governor Sheldon who the new appointee will be, but it is understood that he prefers to name a Democrat. The Democrats, on the other hand, are trying to prevent such action being taken, or to secure the resignation of any Democrat who may be named.

Gretna Man Takes Morphine.

Omaha, Dec. 5.—H. R. Harrington, age thirty-two years, committed suicide in his room at the Merchants hotel by taking morphine. Harrington's father is said to be a California millionaire. The young man has lived at Gretna for some time and owns considerable realty there. He has been drinking heavily for some days and this is believed to have caused him to take his life.

Charged With Stealing Mail Pouch.

Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 5.—United States Commissioner Cobbley of Kansas City has caused the arrest of William Kelley at this place on a charge of stealing a mail pouch from a car at Grand Island some time ago. His hearing is on before the commissioner today.

Two Prisoners Near Liberty.

Clay Center, Neb., Dec. 7.—Two men held for robbing the Dewees bank made keys out of an iron bed slat and had gotten through three doors when Sheriff Sanderson discovered them. Only one door separated them from liberty when they were sent back to their cells.

Society of Equity in Session.

Indianapolis, Dec. 8.—Representatives of various branches of the American Society of Equity are in session to pass finally on the action of the organization's national convention which was held in Milwaukee, Oct. 6, 7 and 8. The indications are that all the convention's deliberations will be ratified.